



# Portland Harbor Superfund Site

Presentation to EPA Administrator

July 22, 2015

Region 10



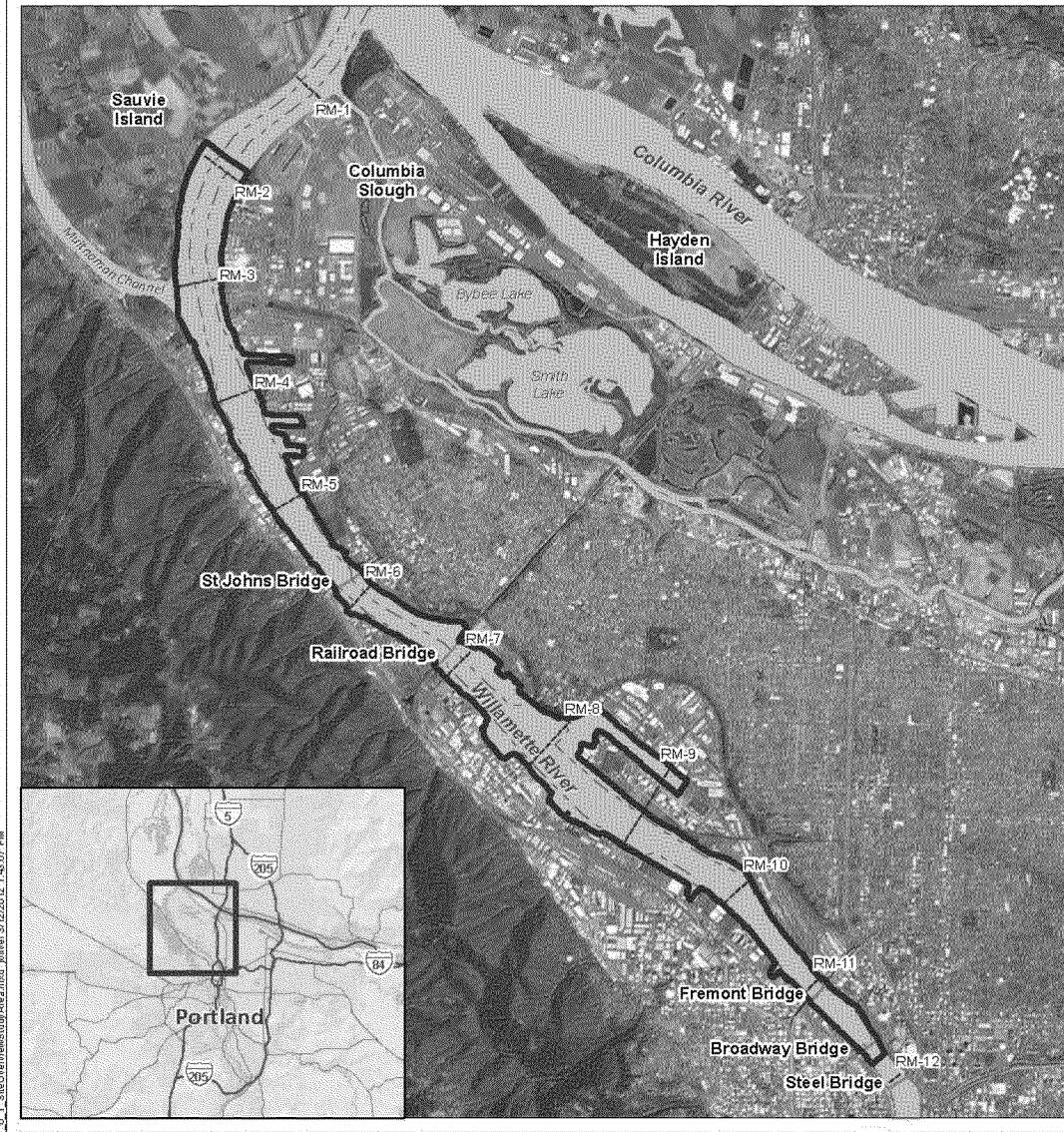
# Overview

- \* Portland Harbor Background
- \* Importance of Cleanup
- \* Feasibility Study
- \* Comparison to Other Major River Cleanups
- \* Process and Progress



# Portland Harbor in the Willamette River

- \* The Willamette River runs 187 miles south to north through Oregon
- \* Portland Harbor covers 10 miles of the Willamette near its confluence with the Columbia River







# Portland Harbor Background

- \* Listed on the National Priorities List in 2000
- \* Spans 10 river miles of the Willamette River
- \* Forty-three contaminants contribute to unacceptable risk, most notable are:
  - \* PCBs
  - \* PAHs
  - \* DDT and similar pesticides
  - \* Dioxins/Furans



# Portland Harbor Background



- \* Over 150 PRPs, consists of business, government and quasi-government
- \* The United States is a medium to large PRP
- \* 10 of the PRPs signed on the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
- \* Some of the PRPs have claimed serious financial constraints





# Portland Harbor Background - Stakeholders

- \* Currently EPA is working closely with the Lower Willamette Group (LWG), State, Tribes, Trustees, and the Community Advisory Group
- \* All parties agree that cleanup should occur
- \* It's not clear how far apart we all are on the scope and scale of cleanup



# The Willamette River has diverse value:

- \* A working river for development and prosperity of Portland,
- \* A recreation and entertainment hub,
- \* An important fishery and cultural landmark,
- \* A wildlife habitat and symbol of abundant nature





# Importance of Cleanup – Human Risks

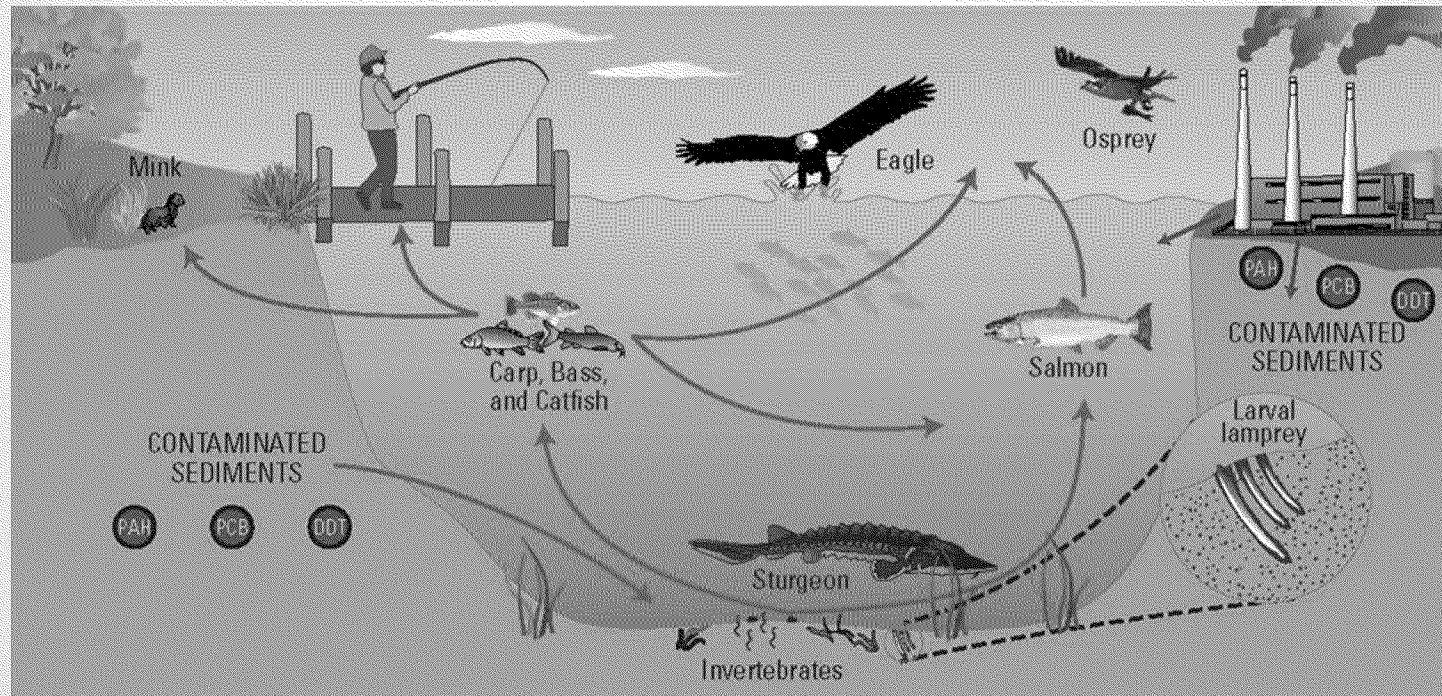


- \* Exposure by direct contact or fish consumption
- \* Certain species of resident fish are highly contaminated and local fish advisory advises not to eat those fish.
- \* Highest risks to infants of nursing mothers that regularly consume resident fish from the river



# Importance of Cleanup – Ecological Impacts

- \* Fish and shellfish are at risk from PCBs, DDT and metals
- \* Birds and mammals are at risk from PCBs and dioxin
- \* Benthic organisms at risk from metals, PCBs, DDT and PAHs





# Process Update

- \* EPA (Regional and HQ staff) has been rewriting the LWG's Feasibility Study to ensure consistency with CERCLA, the NCP, EPA policy and guidance. The LWG is expecting some of the changes EPA is making.
- \* We are working closely with Oregon Department of Environment Quality and other partners and meet with them regularly
- \* Dennis McLerran, Jim Woolford and Dick Pedersen (ODEQ Director) continue to update the Oregon Congressional Delegation on project status
- \* Continued outreach to community groups





# Feasibility Study – Alternatives Development

- \* When developing alternatives, EPA will:
  - \* Consider river dynamics as well as current and potential future use
  - \* Seek to limit land use restrictions
    - \* Ex. Limit use of caps in locations where commercial and shipping activities occur
  - \* Consider future navigation and maintenance dredging when evaluating cleanup technologies





# Feasibility Study – EPA modifications

1. EPA expanded upon the draft Feasibility Study alternatives to include more contaminants
2. EPA defined and addressed Principal Threat Waste (including pure product seeping from sediments) at the site
3. EPA alternatives address contaminated groundwater seeping into the river
4. EPA brought cost figures from the draft Feasibility Study to present-day dollar values
5. EPA Alternatives include 100 years of operation and maintenance rather than 30

**The big impacts from these modifications is to increase protectiveness and costs.**

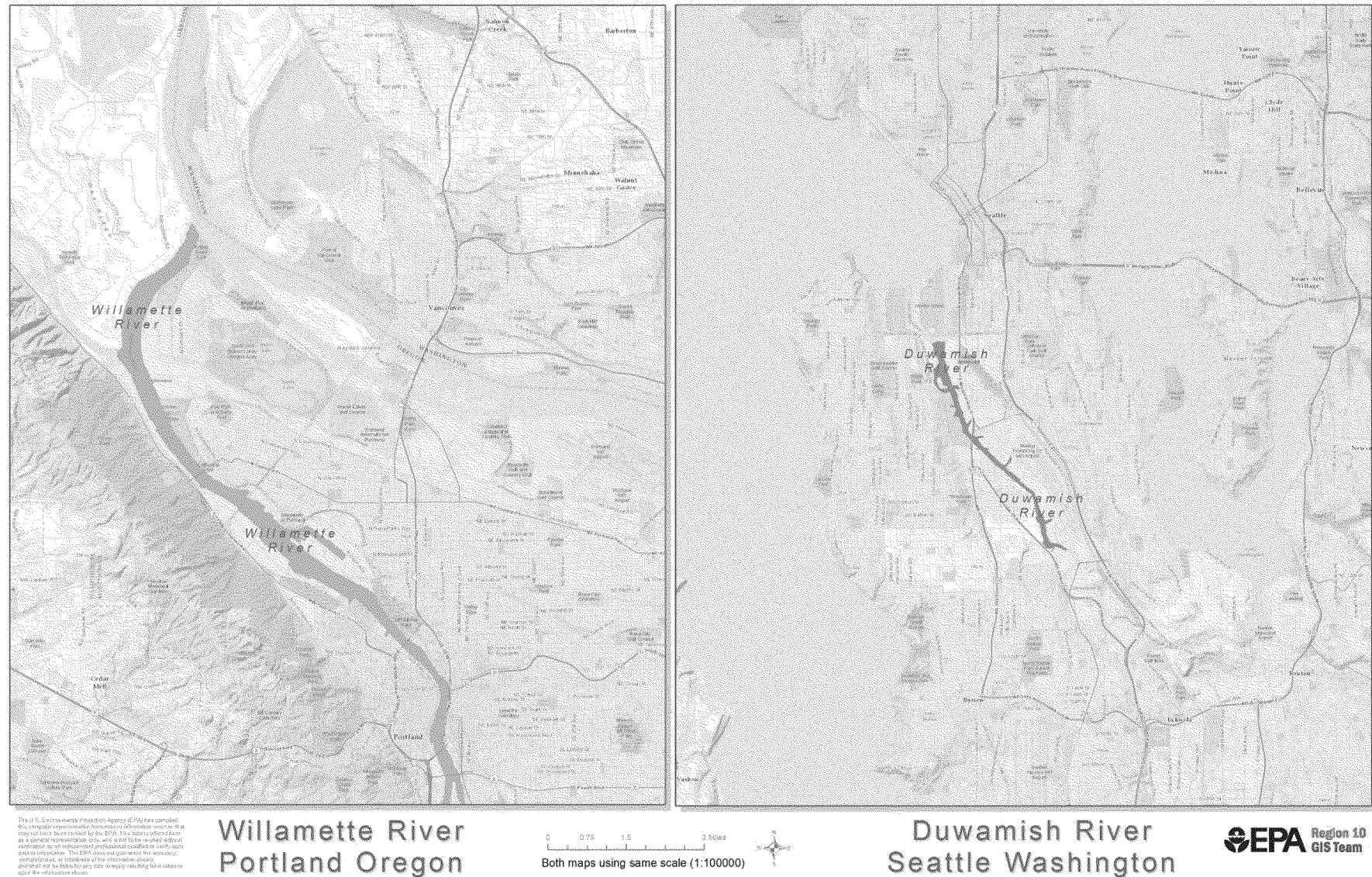


# Comparison to Other Major River Cleanups

Major River	Size (River miles)	Estimated Remedy Cost	Year of Proposed Cost
Portland Harbor	10	\$688 M - \$3.6 B	2015
Passaic	8.3	\$365 M - \$3.25 B	2014
Lower Duwamish River	5	\$342 M	2014



# Scale Comparison: Portland Harbor and Lower Duwamish







# Process and Progress

1. Share the final sections of the Feasibility Study on July 29 and August 7 with the LWG, State, Tribes, Trustees, and Community Advisory Group.
2. Provide the Conceptual Remedy on September 18 to LWG, and other stakeholders. This is the package for National Remedy Review Board and Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group review





# Process and Progress – Key Dates

- \* **August 6, 2015** – Meeting with LWG Executives, Tribal Representatives and Community partners on FS and project schedule
- \* **September 16, 2015** – Meeting with Congressional Delegation to discuss Conceptual remedy
- \* **September 17, 2015** – Meeting with LWG Executives, Tribal Representatives and Community partners on Conceptual Remedy
- \* **September 18, 2015** – Provide Conceptual Remedy to Stakeholder groups
- \* **November 18-19, 2015** – EPA National Remedy Review Board Review